The Member said that the district board he suggested would fill up the gap between each Assembly and between the Assembly and the people. Several people, whom he had consulted, agreed with him in his proposals.

In reply to a query from the Dewan, the Member said that, according to his proposal, the members of the board will change every year and that, if the duration of one year was considered insufficient for any real work, it might be extended at the discretion of Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

150. Introduction of changes in the rules regarding the destruction of judicial and revenue records.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara taluk) said that the recent rules regarding the destruction of records worked great hardships in practice. Many important records that were of immense use to the public were destroyed under those rules within short periods. The destruction of judgments and decrees in small cause suits, and the plaints and the documents in them, at comparatively short periods could be used by crafty persons in obtaining money from the innocent after a period of six years when there would be no evidence left. Oral and documentary evidence was also destroyed within short periods and the witnesses could state anything to the contrary without fear of detection. In the case of judicial records generally, their future utility as evidence was never thought of in fixing a very short period of preservation. In the case of revenue records also, they were destroyed within short periods even when they were the only evidence of title, possession or heirship. The Member therefore proposed the following periods of preservation in the case of the most important of the records:—

A. Judicial Records.

Name of record.	*Period of preservation.*
(1) Judgments and decrees in small cause suits.	For ever.
(2) Plaints and documents on which a small cause suit was based.	24 years.
(3) Original documents of title produced in civil and criminal cases, including small cause, and documents produced in evidence.	At least 20 years.
(4) Oral evidence.	20 years.
(5) Maps and plans and genealogical tables.	20 years.
(6) Registers of small cause cases and execution applications.	For ever.
(7) Registers of criminal cases.	Do.
(8) Judgments in criminal cases, original as well as appellate.	Do.

B. Revenue Records.

(1) Settlement enquiry cases.	Till the next settlement
(2) Revenue sale certificates.	For ever.
(3) Viruthi enquiry records.	Do.
(4) Records of puduval registration before the settlement.	Do.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions made by the Member will be carefully considered.

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